

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00677 260852Z

13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 IO-14

EB-11 /154 W

----- 090600

R 220815Z DEC 73

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 694

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 677

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, N SA, XF

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN VIEW OF SAUDI-USSR RELATIONS

1. EGYPTIAN COUNSELLOR BARAKA REQUESTED TO SEE ME DEC 19
AND APPEARED TO HAVE ONE MESSAGE HE WANTED TO GET ACROSS.
IT WAS THAT THERE IS NOW REAL LIKLIHOOD THAT KING FEISAL
WILL ESTABLISH FRUITFUL RELATIONS WITH USSR AND OTHER
COMMUNIST STATES. COUNSELLOR INTRODUCED SUBJECT BY
POINTING OUT THAT AS RESULT OF ARAB SOLIDARITY FORGED
DURING OCTOBER WAR, EGYPT REMAINED UNDISPUTED LEADER
OF ARAB WORLD AND ALGERIA HAD BECOME LEADER IN MAGHREB.
IN MASHREK, BOTH IRAQ AND SAUDI ARABIA HAD CLAIM TO
LEADERSHIP, BUT SAUDI ARABIA HAD EMERGED ON TOP, AS RESULT
OF OIL MONEY, FEISAL'S STRONG CHARACTER AND HIS ABILITY TO
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INFLUENCE SADAT, AND BECAUSE OF IRAQ'S INEPTITUDE AND

CLUMSINESS. BARAKA SAID FEISAL ENJOYS HIS NEW ROLE AND THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT HE PLANS TO MAINTAIN IT, BOTH TO SECURE HIS PLACE FOR POSTERITY (I.E. REGAINING JERUSALEM FOR ISLAM) AND FOR PROTECTION AGAINST "PROGRESSIVES".

2. GIVEN NATURE OF SAUDI REGIME, BARAKA CONTINUED,FEISAL UNLIKELY TO ENGAGE IN REFORM AT HOME. INSTEAD HE WILL TAKE EASIER PATH OF ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION AND OTHERS IN ANTI-IMPERIALIST CAMP. CONTACTS ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY AND SENIOR SOVIET OFFICIAL WILL BE VISITING SAUDI ARABIA SOON.

3. COMMENT: I HAVE NOTED REPORTS FROM JIDDA THAT FEISAL HAS NO INTENTION OF OPENING RELATIONSHIP WITH USSR AND ABOVE REPORTED SINCE IT SEEMED TO BE LINE EGYPTIANS TRYING TO SPREAD, POSSIBLY TO FORCE PACE OF SETTLEMENT PROCESS SO FEISAL WILL NOT BE TEMPTED TO CHANGE.
LOWRIE

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